

Department of State

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 1963, enclosing for the comment of the Department of State a copy of S. Con. Res. 42, "Establishing the Joint Committee on National Security Affairs."

The resolution would establish a joint committee of twelve members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives which would be empowered "to make a continuous study and investigation of all matters pertaining to national defense, foreign policy, and national security (including intelligence, defense policy, nuclear development, and disarmament).

While the Department welcomes any continuing scrutiny and comprehensive and inclusive analysis on the part of the Congress in the field of foreign policy and national security, it believes that the creation of an additional committee to accomplish the purposes of S. Con. Res. 42 is a matter of legislative discretion and determination. Therefore, the Department of State makes no recommendation with respect to the adoption of the proposed resolution.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Frederick G. Dutton
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable

J. W. Fulbright, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate.